

Report to the M25 Consortium of Academic Libraries

LLDA Director's Report January 2004

Purpose

To provide M25 members with an update on the LLDA activities and projects.

Project development

- A number of new LLDA projects have started including a strategic review of public and community information (Actively informed), a funding consultancy, an ICT consultancy and management development training.
- Learning – we are jointly planning a seminar with GOL on 25th March on the Need to Read, we are also working on the evaluation of the LDA funded Basic Skills pilot, and partnership development work on libraries and learning support with voluntary sector training providers.
- Advocacy work on libraries and neighbourhood renewal, libraries and Positive Activities for Young People, and libraries and the digital divide.
- Reader development work including Departures world literature campaign, and Get London Reading. Plans for Chinese Mother tongue campaign.
- We have secured additional funding for Libraries and Learners in London. LLiL is making excellent progress on recruiting specialist libraries into the scheme and we have recently run another programme of training for the boroughs to raise the profile of LliL. We are expecting a monitoring report out shortly. We have not been able to secure funding for FiiL at this stage but we are meeting shortly to look at other options for funding further development.

WiLL and ICT

A total of 20 boroughs are now searchable through WiLL and on target for all 33 to be linked by March 2004. During November 2003 over 12 000 hits were recorded on the WiLL website, with a number of boroughs having in excess of 300 visits to their catalogues during the month. These are quite significant figures particularly as very little marketing of WiLL has yet been undertaken.

We have recently completed the ICT tender process for the usability testing of WiLL and we hope that this work will begin in January 2004. We expect a number of changes will be needed to improve the site and we hope to be able to work on this during the spring. We are also be reviewing the sustainability of the current ISDN link for WiLL as well as on-going funding.

Welcome to your library

Welcome to your Library is our refugee service development project. WTYL is working with 5 London Boroughs to better identify the library and information needs of refugees and to identify changes to library services to improve access.

The project is funded by the Paul Hamlyn Foundation for 12 months.

We would be very keen to hear from any academic libraries that have done work with refugee students or are aware of any research in this area.

Libraries and Learners in London

A significant number of specialist libraries have recently joined LliL including

- Antislavery International
- British Institute of Radiology
- British Olympic Association
- Drugscope
- Institute of Alcohol Studies
- Institute of Psychiatry

A progress review of LliL identified the need for further awareness raising work with the boroughs and this is now underway.

Management Development

We are now working with CELL and SELPIG on the development and support of leadership and management development training for library staff.

Events, Network and Membership

London Health Libraries have now joined the LLDA.

We are working with the M25 and ALCL on a joint FE/academic and public library network meeting.

Our recent seminar on seamlessUK was also well attended. We are currently working on plans for our programme of seminars for 2004/05.

Winter conference is on 30th January, picks up the theme of the CABE Report on Better Public Libraries.

Advocacy work

We are working on developing case studies on libraries and regeneration, libraries and PAYP, follow up work with the GLA on the Children and Young People's strategy and Connecting Communities, a recent research report on social exclusion and ICT.

- We have been developing links with the London Health Commission who are working on a strategy for health improvement and basic skills. They are interested in the role of libraries in providing access to health information, basic skills awareness work and Skills for Life projects.

The Regional Agency

Archives, Libraries and Museums London has now been formed as a company and charity application has been made. The initial trustees have been appointed, which includes Mary Davies from UEL.

Work is underway on a number of areas of work:

- Recruitment of the CEO
- Recruitment of external Board members
- Business Plan

The LLDA is working closely with ALM London to represent the interests of the library and in particular to negotiate our future working relationships and funding for the library domain.

The ALM London business plan is out for consultation and M25 views are strongly welcomed.